



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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For immediate release**

1. January sign up for counties to evaluate animal confinement sites

**JANUARY SIGN UP FOR COUNTIES TO EVALUATE ANIMAL
CONFINEMENT SITES**

MEDIA CONTACT: Jerah Gallinger at (515) 313-8909.

DES MOINES – Counties interested in evaluating proposed locations of confinement facilities that need a construction permit must sign up by Jan. 31, 2009.

Counties that would like to participate must adopt and file a construction evaluation resolution before the board of supervisors submits the resolution to the DNR between Jan. 1 and 31, 2009.

“This is an opportunity for counties to provide input to producers on site selection, the type of structures and facility management being proposed,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding section. “County supervisors can review and comment on the master matrix that producers submit.”

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet higher standards than other permitted sites. They must earn points on the master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community.

Counties that participate in the master matrix process may have staff accompany the DNR on site visits to proposed confinement operations. The county board of supervisors may also appeal the DNR’s preliminary approval of a permit to the Environmental Protection Commission.

Approximately eighty-six counties have filed resolutions each year since the master matrix went into effect in 2003.

Counties that have adopted a resolution should mail it to Jerah Gallinger at the DNR, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50319 or fax it to 515-281-6794. Sign-ups occur annually during the month of January.

Most confinement feeding operations that need to apply for a permit are subject to the matrix. For more information on which operations are affected, check the DNR Web site under animal feeding operations at www.iowadnr.gov/afo/matrix.html.

Additional information for counties is available on the Iowa State Association of Counties Web site at www.iowacounties.org under news: topics of interest.

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